

### REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 7, 8, 13, 14, 23 and 47 have been canceled. Claims 2-6, 9-12, 15-18, 20-22, 24-26, 35, 48 and 50-52 have been amended. Claims 53 and 54 are newly added. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claims 10, 12, 35, 50 and 52 were objected to due to informalities. The above amendments are believed to overcome all of the objections.

Claim 23 was objected to but was deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17-21, 24-27, 29, 31-34, 36, 37, 39, 40 and 42-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent no. 5,737,032 of Stenzel et al. in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,886,912 of Miyake et al et al.

Applicant has amended each of the independent claims that are still pending to include essentially the limitations of dependent claim 23 (canceled), which the Examiner found to be allowable (Office Action, p. 18). As such, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Note that dependent claims 2-6, 9-12, 15-18, 20 and 21 have been amended to now be dependent on independent claim 22.

By submitting this amendment, Applicant is not expressing agreement with or acquiescence to the rejections or the asserted reasons given in support thereof.

### Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent claim is

not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

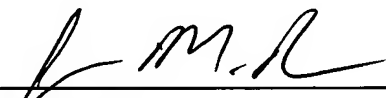
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,  
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